

Press Release  
U.S. CONSULATE GENERAL DÜSSELDORF  
May 14, 2007

## **NRW U.S. CITIZENS SERVICES MOVE TO FRANKFURT**

As of July 2, 2007, American Citizen Services for North-Rhine Westphalia will be provided by the Consular Section of the U.S. Consulate General in Frankfurt. This consolidation is part of a global effort to bring about greater efficiencies in how the U.S. conducts its diplomatic engagement. In Germany, American Citizen Services will be consolidated at the U.S. Embassy in Berlin and the U.S. Consulates General in Frankfurt and Munich.

Most routine services are now available to U.S. citizens on the internet and do not require personal appearance at a Consulate, including –

- U.S. citizen residents and visitors registration at <https://travelregistration.state.gov/ibrs/>
- Passport applications at <http://www.travel.state.gov/>
- Overseas voter registration information and absentee ballot procedures at <http://www.fvap.gov>

All information can also be accessed via <http://duesseldorf.usconsulate.gov>

Through technology, more services are available to U.S. citizens via the Internet. In most cases it is no longer necessary to visit a consular section in person for routine consular assistance. For example, U.S. citizen residents and visitors can fill out and print passport applications and can obtain overseas voter registration information and absentee ballot procedures on-line. Since the U.S. and Germany are both signatories to the Hague Legalization Convention, it is not necessary for an American consular officer to notarize documents for use in the U.S. Documents may instead be legalized by German authorities who will affix a Hague "Apostile" certificate.

U.S. Consul General Matthew G. Boyse states: “The safety and well-being of U.S. citizens remains our highest priority and we will continue to respond to emergencies involving American citizens. For all other services requiring personal appearance, we ask our citizens to visit the U.S. Consulate General in Frankfurt.”

Boyse added: “This consolidation will not lessen the importance of the U.S. Consulate’s operations in Düsseldorf. We will continue to be an active partner in building strong U.S.-German relations in the region.”